REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 28, 2007, considered and rejected claims 1-21, 23-39, 41 and 42. Claims 1-39, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hardy et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0044152).[1]

By this paper, claims 1, 20, 34 and 37 are amended, claim 43 cancelled, and claims 44-46 added. Accordingly, following this paper, claims 1-21, 23-39, 41, 42 and 44-46 are pending, of which claims 1, 20, 34, 37 and 46 are the only independent claims at issue.

As previously discussed with the Examiner, the claims are generally directed to a methods and computer program products for allowing a variety of applications to initiate communication with a contact by utilizing a centralized store of contact information. As recited in independent claims 1 and 20, for example, a plurality of contacts are created with contact information that can be utilized by the various communication applications to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts, and the contact information is stored in a centralized contact store accessible to the various applications. A contact interface is also provided which displays contact information in within one or more of multiple regions of a display window. The same display window is adapted such that it initially, simultaneously, and separately displays a contacts region, which includes contact information of one or more contacts, including at least address and phone number information when available. A tasks region is also displayed and includes one or more user-selectable links that launch one or more of the multiple communication applications that initiate network communication with the contact. The tasks region thus displays links, separate from contact information, and further includes a link for only each type of contact method available to the computing system in view of the applications installed and the amount of contact information available. Accordingly, for contact information that includes a voice phone number, email address and IM account information, and a computer which includes an email service, an IM service, and an electronic fax application, the links region can include a link to email and a link to send an instant message, while links for voice and fax communication are excluded inasmuch as insufficient contact information exists in the centralized database for a fax to be sent, and whereas no voice telephone application exists

[1] Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

for voice telephony. A communication application can then be launched in response to user selection of a corresponding link from the same window, but separate region, displaying the contact information, and the communication application may then receive access to a contact and its corresponding contact information through the contact interface or one or more other interfaces. The ability of the communication applications to then retrieve the contact information and utilize the information to initiate network communication with the contact is then enabled.

Independent claims 34 and 37 are directed to a method and computer program product, respectively, for implementing a similar method in which contact information is modified and updated on an application-specific database, and then accessed from the application-specific database. Independent claim 46 is directed to a method similar to claim 1, but which includes additional elements regarding the regions displayed on the contact interface, including the use of condensed and expanded contact information regions, in addition to the task region which allows launching of communication applications and editing of contact information.

While *Hardy* generally relates to a system in which contact information is shared between an address book and an instant messaging application, Applicant respectfully submits that it fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of the pending claims, and particularly not in as much detail or the same organization as recited in the claims and as required for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. For example, among other things, the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest a contact interface in which a contact region that includes, when available, telephone and address information is displayed simultaneously and separately from, upon the initial loading of the display window, a tasks region that includes user selectable links for launching communication applications, as recited in combination with the other claim elements. In fact, *Hardy* expressly teaches that instead of displaying links separately and upon the initial loading of the contact information page of the contact interface, links to applications are provided in a contact interface only within <u>embedded links on the contact information itself</u>.

In particular, *Hardy* discloses a system for integrating an address book application with an instant messaging application in a mobile station. (*Abstract*; ¶ 4). In the system, the mobile device includes an instant messaging (IM) application as a software application that includes a user interface for creating, viewing and managing instant messages and IM-related instant messaging contact information. (¶ 17). The IM application stores the IM information in an IM database, and an IM library application provides a generic interface to the IM database. (*Id.*).

The mobile device also includes an address book application as a software application used for creating, viewing, and managing address book data such as contact names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, etc. (¶ 18). This information is stored in an address book database, and an address library interface provides a generic interface to the library of address book information. (*Id.*).

To share the information, an aggregated data and facilities database may establish a relationship between the address book application and the IM application, thereby allowing the mobile device to relate IM data from the IM database with address book data from the address book database. (¶ 19). In this manner, the address book application can then be used to manage data from any available communication method, and address book information can be manipulated from the IM application. (*Id.*). In this manner, the IM application accesses and displays address book records without executing any address book software. (¶ 24).

When information is displayed, within the address book or the IM application, the address book fields can include links to launch other applications. (*Id.*). Thus, a voice communication application can be launched by selecting a displayed phone number field from an address book entry, or IM communication can be launched by selecting an IM handle from the address book application. (¶¶ 24, 34).

An example is shown with respect to Figure 5, in which an address book entry includes information from IM and address book databases. The address book includes a header portion identifying the name of the user, provides additional information about the user, including address information (e.g., physical address, email address, IM handle) and telephone information (home, work, cell). A notes section also includes the ability to create a new business contact. (Fig. 5). In using such an address entry, the user can select, for example, the IM handle from the address book application, and launch an IM communication with the IM application. (¶ 34).

Accordingly, *Hardy* discloses that when contact information is collected, an application can launch communication with the contact by selecting a link on the contact information itself. Notably, this is directly in contrast to the pending claims, in which a contacts region that includes address and telephone number information and a tasks region for launching the communication application are each simultaneously and initially displayed, but in which they are maintained separately. This is particularly so considering that the tasks region is also adapted so that it displays only links for each type of communication method directly available to the computing

system in view of the communication applications installed and the amount of contact information available. Thus, the links region will not display a link when either insufficient contact data exists for the method of communication, or when a suitable communication application to use existing contact data does not exist.

With respect to claim 20, Applicant further notes that *Hardy* also fails to disclose or suggest wherein extensible controls are launched within an application and/or in which an extensible control acts as a security mechanism to limit the contacts and contact information available to an application as recited in the pending claims. Indeed, *Hardy* has no disclosure that any available software or control is extensible, let alone that the control that performs the security mechanism is extensible as recited in the pending claims. For this teaching, the Office cites paragraphs 25-28 of *Hardy* which disclose "the specific control of saved contact information by the aggregated data view." Specifically, paragraph 25 describes updating information in the aggregated data and facilities database. Paragraphs 26-28 then describe describes routing data to an appropriate application and allowing registration of API data points and use of the registered API entry points to retrieve and store information.

Notably, registration of API data points at most suggests that the API data points that access the data are themselves extensible. It does not, however, suggest that the mechanism that is alleged to control security—the aggregated data viewer—is itself extensible. The claims, however, specifically recite wherein the extensible controls provide the security mechanism for preventing access to unauthorized contact information. Furthermore, in the pending claims, the launched application is both prevented from accessing some contacts and corresponding contact information, while also enabling retrieval of some contact information. This is also directly contrary to *Hardy* in which an unregistered API could not access any contact information.

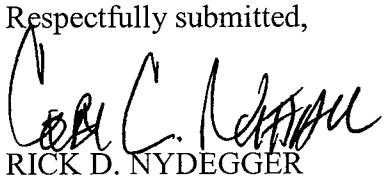
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner

provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (801) 533-9800.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



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